



The Mural of the New Jersey Immigrant Experience

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The 17-panel mural was painted in oils and installed segment by segment on the 60-by-44-foot ceiling of the former Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, by artist John Traynor. The purpose of the work is not only to present Newark's history, but to show the different immigrant, ethnic, and racial groups who settled, lived, and worked in the city.

The perimeter of the mural displays different periods of the history of Newark. They include: The landing of the Puritans in 1666; Aaron Burr Sr., the founder of the College of New Jersey, which later moved to Princeton and became Princeton University; his son, Aaron Burr Jr., who later became vice president of the United States; a view of Newark Airport in the early 1930s, and a view of the city's current skyline.

The inside panels detail the history of the city's Ironbound section, which include an 1830s view of the "down neck," including Mulberry Street, and depict the old Morris Canal, which passed through the Ironbound on its way to Jersey City.

In the center of the mural is a portrait of Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini, the first American saint of the Catholic Church. Cabrini once taught in the basement of the building.

The mural includes symbolic representation of Native Americans, Italians, British, African-Americans, Jews, Portuguese, and other groups that contributed to the development of New Jersey's largest city.

No single work of art could hope to capture the diversity of the contributions of the many immigrant groups whose presence and whose labor are ingrained in the history of the area. By celebrating those nationalities represented, the murals celebrate all.

The murals capture the vision of the restoration project and will inspire residents and visitors alike.

Mr. Henry Martinez  
Councilman from the  
East Ward  
City of Newark  
and the  
Board of Directors of  
The Ironbound Educational  
and Cultural Center

invite you to  
celebrate the 325th Anniversary  
of the City of Newark  
with a viewing of the murals  
and restoration progress  
of the historic  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church  
for use as a museum and  
performing arts space

Thursday, May 30, 1991  
4:30p.m.-7:30p.m.

at

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church  
at 184 Edison Place in the Ironbound  
future home of the  
Ironbound Educational and Cultural Center

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